revamping of the Media Units and their reorientation has emerged during the consultations. In view of the recommendations of the Consultative Committee the matter is being further examined.

Monitoring of TV programmes

1045. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new T.V. Channels till date, which have obtained clearance from Government indicating both Indian and foreign;

(b) whether her Ministry's Central Monitoring Service ensures that programmes shown on T.V. are not out of syne with Indian culture and ethos; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken, so far, against FTV's fashion and life style programmes which were reportedly found objectionable on ground of obscenity indicating whether the said channel had passed the morality test?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Satellite channels uplinked from abroad are not required to obtain any clearance. There are 25 channels which have been permitted to uplink from India.

(b) As and when found necessary, the service of Central Monitoring Services of All India Radio are utilized to monitor selected programmes (and channels).

(c) The programme of Fashion TV channel were monitored for a specific period and excerpts thereof were shown to the Members of the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of I&B on 15th Feb., 2001. As recommended by the Consultative Committee, the Government has taken up with the channel operators the need to adhere to the Programme code, prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules made thereunder, which provide, *inter-alia*, that no programme shall be carried in the cable service, which contains anything obscene and which denigrates women through the depiction, in any manner, of the figure of a women, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women, or is likely to deprive, corrupt and injure the public morality or morals. The producers of the programme assured to do so.